

mitted by the Constitution of Texas a State ad valorem tax on property of seven (\$.07) cents on the one hundred (\$100) dollars valuation for the purpose of creating a special fund for the payment of pensions for services in the Confederate army and navy, frontier organizations and the militia of the State of Texas, and for the widows of such soldiers serving in said armies, navies, organizations or militia; provided that the Legislature may reduce the tax rate herein levied, and provided further that the provisions of this Section shall not be construed so as to prevent the grant of aid in cases of public calamity.

SEC. 2. The foregoing Constitutional Amendment shall be submitted to a vote of the qualified voters of this State at an election to be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November, 1924, at which all voters shall have printed or written on their ballots: "For amendment of Section 51 of Article 3 of the Constitution authorizing the Legislature to grant aid to Confederate soldiers, sailors and their widows who have been a resident of this State since January 1, 1910." and "Against amendment to Section 51 of Article 3, of the Constitution, authorizing the Legislature to grant aid to Confederate soldiers and their widows."

SEC. 3. The Governor is hereby directed to issue the proclamation for said election and have the same published as required by the Constitution and laws of this State, and the sum of five thousand (\$5,000.00) dollars or so much thereof as may be necessary is hereby appropriated out of the general funds of this State not otherwise appropriated for expenses of publications and elections thereunder.

Approved, March 20, 1923.

#### TO AUTHORIZE CONTROL OF HIGHWAYS BY STATE.

H. J. R. No. 16.]

Proposing an amendment to Article 8, of the Constitution of the State of Texas, which relates to taxation and revenues, by adding thereto a new section to be known as Section 9a, directing the Legislature to provide for the construction, operation and maintenance, under State control, of a State system of public highways; providing for an election for the ratification or rejection of the amendment herein proposed, and making an appropriation to defray the expense of said election.

*Be it resolved by the Legislature of the State of Texas:*

SECTION 1. That there be submitted to the people of Texas, for ratification or rejection at a special election provided for herein an amendment to Article 8, of the Constitution of the State of Texas, amending said Article 8, of the Constitution of the State of Texas by adding thereto a new section to be known as Section 9a, which shall read as follows:

Section 9a. The Legislature is authorized and directed to provide for the creation, establishment, construction, maintenance and

repair of a system of improved highways throughout the State to be under the control of the State; and in order that the State may provide the means, revenues and instrumentalities the establishment and maintenance of such system of highways, the Legislature is empowered to levy and cause to be collected specific excise and ad valorem taxes, in addition of those permitted for other purposes in the Constitution, but such an ad valorem tax shall be imposed only for the purpose of retiring the bonds authorized by vote of the people of this State as provided for hereinafter in this Section.

When said system shall have been designated and taken over for the State as provided in Section A hercof, the Legislature is authorized to make provision for the equitable compensation to such counties for the value of such improvements as have been theretofore constructed by the Counties in the State.

Provided, also that save for the State highway system, in all other respects, counties shall have the right, to build, construct and maintain roads, turnpikes, and bridges within their respective boundaries and the Constitutional provisions relating thereto are not qualified or repealed by reason hercof.

The Legislature, at any Regular or Special Session, is authorized and directed to pass and enact all appropriate legislation necessary to carry out and effectuate the purpose and intent of these articles.

SEC. 2. The Governor of the State is hereby directed to cause to be issued his necessary proclamation for an election to be held on the fourth Saturday in July, 1923, at which election this amendment shall be submitted to the qualified electors of this State for adoption or rejection and shall make the publication required by the Constitution and laws of the State. Said election shall be held under and in accordance with the General Election Laws of the State, and the ballots for said election shall have printed or written thereon in plain letters the following words:

"Official Ballot" "For the amendment to Article 8, of the Constitution of the State of Texas, providing for a State system of highways." "Against the amendment to Article 8, of the Constitution of the State of Texas, providing for a State system of highways."

Those voters who favor such amendment shall erase by marking a line through the words, "Against the Amendment to Article 8, of the Constitution of the State of Texas, providing for a State system of highways." Those who oppose such amendment shall erase by marking a line through them, the words, "For the amendment to Article 8, of the Constitution of the State of Texas, providing for a State system of highways." And the result of the election shall be published and declared according to the majority of the votes cast in such election.

SEC. 3. The sum of five thousand dollars or so much thereof as may be necessary is hereby appropriated out of any funds in the treasury not otherwise appropriated for the purpose of paying the necessary expenses of the proclamation and publication of this amendment and the election to be held hereunder.

Approved, March 24, 1923.